



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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DISTRICT MAN SENTENCED TO TWELVE YEARS IN PRISON FOR SHOOTING GIRLFRIEND

– fired shots while children and baby were in apartment –

WASHINGTON - Ricky Abbott, from the District of Columbia, was sentenced to a twelve-year prison term on Friday, May 21, 2010, by the Honorable Frederick H. Weisberg in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, for shooting his girlfriend in the head and then shooting himself on January 10, 2010, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today. Both parties survived the shooting. Mr. Abbott, who pled guilty on March 22, 2010 to Assault With Intent to Kill, was also sentenced to a five-year period of supervised release following his prison term.

According to evidence presented at the plea hearing, on January 10, 2010, at approximately 3:00 p.m., the defendant was engaged in a verbal altercation with the victim, the mother of his eight-month-old son. The argument took place at the victim's apartment, where the victim's nine-year-old daughter was playing with two other children in the living room, and the eight-month-old was sleeping.

During the course of the argument, the defendant pushed the victim down, pulled out a gun, and fired. The bullet hit the victim in the head directly between her eyes. The victim closed her eyes as if unconscious.

The victim's daughter heard the gunshot and walked towards the bedroom to make sure her mother was alright. The defendant then fired additional rounds, including a shot to his own head. When the defendant fell to the floor, the victim and her daughter fled the apartment. The other two children had already left the premises. At the victim's request, a neighbor went into the apartment and retrieved the defendant's son from the bedroom where the defendant was lying with a gun in his hand.

Members of the Metropolitan Police Department arrived at the apartment shortly thereafter. They found the defendant lying in the bedroom with a .32 caliber magnum revolver in his hand. The revolver had 3 expended rounds, 1 misfired round, and one live round in the cylinder.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Metropolitan Police

Department (MPD) Detective Dan Lewis, the lead detective on the case, and Crime Scene Officer Kenneth Bryant. U.S. Attorney Machen also expressed his appreciation to legal assistant Charmonique Price and paralegal Jason Manuel for their support in the investigation of the case; to Victim Advocate Shauna Moore for her compassionate assistance to the victim; and to Assistant U.S. Attorney Bridget Fitzpatrick, who prosecuted the case.